

Town of Elma Community



KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

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UP DATE

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Devoted Entirely to the Town of Elma and its Residents

October 2004

"Elma Must Receive Healthy Water From a Clean Vessel"

Eugene Stevenson, Elma Water Supt.

The Jamison Road water tank was created in the spring of 1964 and placed into service the fall of that year and was repainted in the summer of 1987. The life expectancy of a steel water tank is about 50 years, if proper care is taken. The current cost of a replacement tank is about \$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000. With three water tanks in our system, we need to have a good preventative maintenance program.

This water tank rehabilitation project started over two years ago with research of water tank inspection services. Bids were sent out and a bid was accepted from Conrady Consultant Services from Vero Beach Florida.

A plan had to be drawn up to prepare bids for a painting contractor. Amstar of WNY was awarded the bid at \$259,000. Bids ranged from \$259,000 to \$800,000.

July 6, 2004, the tank was emptied and removed from service. During this time your water pressure was being maintained by employees of the Water Department by manually adjusting water valves within the pump room 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to insure the community had the correct water pressure. Without skilled and knowledgeable employees knowing the system, water breaks from over pressurization or the lack of water could have occurred. On August 20th at 6:00PM the Jamison water tank was returned to service; cleaned, repaired and repainted to its original condition without

See water on page 3

ELMA'S NEW TOWN HALL DEDICATED

Sunday, September 26, 2004



Supervisor Michael P. Nolan addresses over 300 people that gathered to witness the dedication of the new Elma Town Hall. Pictured from left to right: Senator, Dale Volker; Assemblywoman, Sandra Lee Wirth; Supervisor, Michael Nolan; Legislator, Denise Marshall; Town Clerk, Pat King; Councilwoman, Susan B. Glownia; Councilman, Bill Cirocco; Councilman, Dean Puleo; Tax Receiver, Franklin Kester; Justice, Joseph Sakowski; Justice, M. William Boller. (Not shown: Councilman, Dennis Powers)



Left: Commander Bill Nagy of the Elma VFW Post 5861 carries the American Flag to Scouts from Troop 238 to be raised on the Town flag pole. The flag was given to Supervisor Michael Nolan and the Town Board for the Town, by Eagle Scout Andrew Paluch of Elma. Right: Scouts assist Supervisor Michael Nolan raising the Town Flag during the Dedication Ceremony Sunday September 26th. Over 300 residents and guests attended the history making event. Former Supervisors, Audrey Murdoch and John Dudek, along with Sal Valvo were recognized for their efforts during the building's planning stages.

Contact Us

www.elmanewyork.com

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Supervisor Michael Nolan Submits Town Budget.

To the Town Board, Citizens and Taxpayers of the Town of Elma:

Below is the Town of Elma, New York's (the "Town") proposed budget for the year 2005. As required by Town Law this version of the budget has been prepared by me as Town Supervisor and is known as the "Tentative Budget" for 2005. It is respectfully submitted to the citizens for review, consideration, resident input and potential adjustment prior to Town Board adoption.

This is my first proposed budget as Supervisor and we faced many challenges in the preparation of this budget. Some of these challenges include:

- New York State's attempt to redirect certain fines and forfeitures from Town revenues to State revenues.
- Increase cost for personal services in both wages and fringe benefits (particularly health care cost).
- Increased cost for gas, oil and related products. This effected many areas of the Highway Fund budget as products such as blacktop, road oil, stone, gravel, piping and salt have all increased.
- Revenues from many sources, such as New York State and Erie County, are not expected to increase.
- The Town taxable assessment base decreased slightly from prior year due to additional exemptions granted based on increased income levels.

Despite these challenges we will continue to provide our citizens with the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. A complete detail budget and summary of estimated tax rates can be found in the Tentative Budget; however, a summary of the town's General, Highway and Water Funds (the Town's largest funds) is as follows:

FUND	2005 Tentative Budget Amount to be Raised by Taxation		2004 Adopted Budget Amount to be Raised by Taxation	
	Tax Rate		Tax Rate	
GENERAL FUND	NO TAX		NO TAX	
HIGHWAY FUND	\$229,259	4.9916	\$229,300	4.9657
WATER FUND	\$77,438	1.4830	\$77,593	1.6244

As displayed by the table there is once again **no real property tax** within the General Fund.

To demonstrate how the increase in the Highway Fund would effect a homeowner - a home with a fair market value of \$100,000 would see a tax increase of only \$.16 (computed as follows: Home fair value \$100,000 multiplied by the Town's equalization rate of 6% = Elma Assessed value of \$6,000 multiplied by increase per \$1,000 of assessed valuation of \$.0259 = total annual increase of \$.16). As previously mentioned, costs have increased significantly in the Highway Department and this small increase helps us maintain our roads throughout the year.

Other budget highlights include:

- The budget continues to maintain all Town Services.
- The Town recently moved into the new Town Hall. The budget includes an aggressive plan to pay down debt on the New Town Hall and continue our great tradition with **No General Town Tax.**
- The budget includes anticipated revenues related to court fines and forfeitures as we continue efforts to have previous legislation over-

turned and funding restored.

- The Town's continued efforts to keep cost low by maintaining minimal staffing and seeking ways to control benefit cost.

In summary, I believe this budget proposal provides for high quality services to our residents at basically no cost increase. I look forward to any input that citizens may have on the proposed budget.

In closing, I wish to thank all the employees and department heads for their dedicated service to the Town. Additionally, thanks to the Elma Marilla Wales Recreation for the many programs and services provided to our Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Nolan
Supervisor

**Your Fire
Company
Needs You!
Join Today!**

VFW Memorial Moved to 1600 Bowen Road.



Brooks Rigging workers dig the foundation for the VFW Memorial at the new Town Hall. The stone was moved on September 13th. At the July 7th Board Meeting it was decided to move the Memorial from its site at Rice Road.

Leaving for the winter?

If you plan to leave Elma for the winter months, and would like to keep informed on events in your community, please let us know. Contact the Town Hall and we will be more than happy to mail you an edition of Community UPDATE.

Elma Seniors...



Charlie Hunt and Al Gerbig from the Southtowns Woodcarvers displaying their talents.

The Southtowns Woodcarvers display their wood carving talents at the Elma Arts and Craft show held at the Senior Center on August 28th.

The woodcarvers visit the center every Tuesday to instruct the seniors on woodcarving.

The Elma Senior Citizen Center is open for membership to Elma Seniors over 60.

The Center is located at 3007 Bowen Road, and is open Tues.-Thurs.. 9:30- 2:30 for clubs, cards, and friendships.

Fay Lexo adjourns last Board meeting held at old Town Hall.



Fay Lexo adjourns the last meeting of the Elma Town Board to be held at 1910 Bowen Road at 8:40 Wednesday September 1, 2004. Mrs. Lexo's late husband Bill Lexo served as Elma Town Supervisor from 1964 until 1987. Shown from left to right are: Councilwoman, Susan B. Glowina; Town Clerk, Patricia King; Fay Lexo; Supervisor, Michael Nolan (standing); Councilman, Dean Puleo; Councilman, Dennis Powers. Board meetings now will be held at the new Town Hall located at 1600 Bowen Road.

Band Concerts come to a close.



Over 400 people were in attendance for the last Elma Band Concert of the season.

A bright September moon hovering over the trees, a warm evening, 400 residents, hot dogs, corn on the cob, and great country music were the recipe for an outstanding close to this year's summer concerts.

Meeting old friends, the outdoor atmosphere, an evening break from cooking supper, being outside on a beautiful night, peaceful setting, were some of the remarks of folks who enjoyed the evening.

What was least liked? One comment said it all... "It's too bad the bugs like music too!!" Also on the least list, RAIN! A majority of those who turned in their questionnaires did not like having to go to the School for the concerts. "It can't replace the outdoor atmosphere."

The committee plans to have a phone number that can be used for the status of each

concert if rain is in the forecast.

Despite the rain and bugs, the Concert Committee reports that this year's series was an enjoyable success with over 2,000 people attending the summer series.

The Committee also expressed their thanks to the Town Board, residents, the Elma Highway Department for beautiful work on the grounds, The Arts Council of WNY and a special thanks to our local business sponsors; **Howbill Auto Parts, United Wall & Ceiling Systems, Cy's Elma Pharmacy, Elma Press, and Mader Construction, Inc.**

Joe Colern, Code Enforcement officer reports...

Local Residents having complaints on open burning may contact NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

If you are concerned about unlicensed or junk vehicles you will find that local towns follow the NYS property maintenance code that stipulates two or more inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicles shall not be parked on any premises.

As a reminder, check batteries in smoke detectors, and install carbon monoxide detectors in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms on the lowest floor level.

Joseph Colern, Code Enforcement Officer
Office Hours: 8am-4pm Phone: 652-2188

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a single complaint or water break. This adds another 50 years of service to our community.

The Elma Water Department strives to insure the best water quality available with a proactive maintenance program on our complete system. This includes, water tanks, pumps, water main valves, and fire hydrants. By maintaining our system now, we can prevent our system from deteriorating and lowering the water quality, and saving us millions of dollars in the future.

The Town should be proud that our system is over 40 years old and still in very good shape with one of the lowest unaccountable water loss percentages in the state for a system our size.

The Elma Water Department is recognized by the State and Erie County Health Departments as having one of the best back flow prevention programs in place that helps insure good water quality.

Pictured Below: Engineer George Roetzer shows areas pitted from a section inside the Jamison Rd. water tank wall.



Thank You!...

The Friends of the Elma Library would like to thank all the volunteers and supporters for the successful used Book Sale in September. All of the proceeds benefit the Elma Public Library.

The Friends is a group of volunteers concerned about keeping and improving this valuable community resource. The group needs more members willing to volunteer help and provide new ideas for planned activities.

Consider becoming a member or volunteer your services, by calling Marti Huessler at 655-5740, or Edwina Schrader at 655-3763 for more information.

Dave Engberg

Despite Rain turnout good for Elma's 1st Pumpkin Festival.

Wind and rain did not keep 200 children plus parents from an enjoyable afternoon at Elma's First Annual Pumpkin Festival. The Festival was held at Elma's Village Green Park October 16th.

Pumpkin Carving, Face Painting, Hay Rides, Donuts and Apple Cider, Cotton Candy, and Hot Dogs were the ingredients for the day.

The Committee reported they were pleased with the turnout. Watching the kids enjoying themselves made the project worthwhile.

The Elma Volunteer Fire Company served hot dogs for all to enjoy.



Pumpkin Committee members and volunteers prepare to hand out donuts and cider.

Right: Crystal Stark and Kaleigh Kenefick enjoy carving their pumpkins.

Mugsey The Clown, gives Michael Kenefick of Elma a Lions face at the face painting corner at the festival.



Elma Councilman Dean Puleo assists his sons Justin and Johnny with carving their pumpkins. A lighting ceremony was held in the Senior Center later in the day.



Lifelong Resident, Rosemary Bapst Purchases Old Town Hall.



Auctioneer John Tuck Left, Rosemary Bapst, center and Town Attorney, Robert Pierce right, review and sign paperwork after the sale of the Old Town Hall at 1910 Bowen Road. The auction was held October 16th at the Hall.

As the deadline of 11:00am approached 30 people gathered to either bid or witness the sale of the Old Town Hall.

Built as Public School No. 6, the structure has been the concern of many residents within the community, in regards to its preservation. The building has served the town since 1956 when it was purchased at auction from the Iroquois School District for the sum of \$2,000.

During the auction no other bids were received for the 4,970 square foot structure, other than Ms. Bapst for the price of \$75,000. Under the contract, no changes or additions will be made to the building or to it's exterior, or structures added to the 1.5 acres, and the building must be brought up to code.

"Being Observant"

Edward R. Sauer
Disaster Coordinator
Town of Elma, NY

In today's world, post 9/11, our first line of defense against terrorism starts with each and every one of us. We must all take an active part in protecting each other. One way we can do this is by being observant.

Have you ever seen something that just didn't look or feel right to you and later on see a news story about it? **Don't think that it can't happen here.**

There are terrorist cells throughout this country, not all are foreign or work in a group. We have domestic terrorists also. Does Ted Kaczynski or Tim McVeigh ring a bell? How about people who felt slighted by our government or are disgruntled with an employer. Have you ever heard the phrase "gone Postal?"

We all see things that we question. Water Superintendent Gene Stevenson recently told me a story that happened in my neighborhood. A person was seen taking photographs of one of the towns' water tanks by a Water Department employee in the afternoon. This alert employee notified Gene who in turn notified the Erie County Sheriff's Office. As it turned out the person was from a firm that the county hired to survey the water system in the county.

What if this person had other intentions and it had gone unreported? How many people drink the water that comes from the Elma water tanks? How long would it take before signs and symptoms occur? How many people would take over the counter meds before going to see their doctor? How long would it take for the hospitals to recognize a pattern and report it to the Health Dept.? How long would it take to locate the source? How many people would be effected, until the source is neutralized? What if they were planning to take out all the water tanks in the county? Eliminate the water supply then start a fire! This is how we have to think.

This time it turned out to be nothing, but what about next time? There is no harm in reporting your suspicions, however there could be grave danger by ignoring them.

As our Troops are protecting us abroad, we must help protect us here at home. We all have a duty to keep us safe.